National Housing Policy

*49. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVE. LOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Housing Policy aimed at providing houses to everyone by the end of the century has been approved; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of ihe Policy?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) One of the main goals of National Housing Policy approved by the Government is that houselessness will be reduced in the next 10 years.

(b) Salient features of the National Housing Policy are as under:

(i) The basic objective of the policy is to assist the people, in particular the homeless, inadequately housed and vulnerable sections to secure for themselves an affordable shelter.

(ii) For the purpose, the policy lays down ways and means to ensure this through access to developed land, building materials, finance and technology.

(iii) The policy envisages a major shift in the role of Government at different levels from that of direct builder of houses to that of facilitator of housing activity with responsibility for creating an. enabling environment by eliminating constraints and by developing an efficient system for the delivery of various housing inputs.

(iv) At the same time, Government will continue to be responsible for providing direct assistance to disadvantaged groups like Economically Weaker Section, Schedule Caste/ Schedule Tribe, physically handicapped, households affected by natural calamities, poor widows and single women.

(v) The role of other agencies viz. private, cooperative sector and the community in increasing the output of housing has been duly recognised.

National Cultural Policy

*50. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister fo HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to formulate a National Cultural Policy;

(b) if so, what are the salient tea tures of the policy; and

(c) by when the policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RE SOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) During the year 1990, ten regional seminars were held in different parts of the country to elicit the views of experts, critics and administrators in the field of culture regarding formulation of a National Cultural Policy. A Sum mary of the discussions of the ten seminars in the form of a paper was presented in a meeting of the State Secretaries and Ministers of Culture on May 25-26, 1992. The recom mendations of the meeting of the State Ministers of Culture will be taken into account while finalising the policy on culture. Thereafter the draft paper will be circulated to the various States for their approval. Upon receipt of the approval] opinion of the various states, the Government will take appropriate action to present the policy on Culture.

Payment of dues to Farmers by Sugar Mills

*51. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAN-DRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the increase in production of sugar which has already crossed the last year's production, the arrears of pay